

FOIAb3b

Eels Within Eels

CPYRGHT



ITALIAN communist Alessandro Beltramini is in a Caracas jail, charged with carrying \$300,000 from Rome to plotters against the Venezuelan government.

There's a difference between having no passport and having a false one. The false one is more dangerous. Odd visas cast suspicion on Beltramini, a Milan physician. He stands accused of being a world-traveling bagman, along with a Yugoslav accomplice.

Communist cash squirms thru the world like a slippery eel. It is typical of the dangers we face behind the scenes thru Chinese-Soviet deceptions.

James Bond notwithstanding, the continuous payment of agents is, in fact, the most difficult of all espionage operations.

It requires an astounding variety of local (and often exotic) currencies and, moreover, that these be obtained in large quantities and in secret. How do you buy the moola without your purchase being traced?

There's an old saying in Russia: "Gold has no odor." Once refined into bullion, it can be converted on the money markets in Zurich, London, Paris, Amsterdam, etc., into any currency. Accordingly, the slippery eel is fed chiefly on gold.

Traditionally, Russia is the world's No. 2 producer. (Africa has always led, and South Africa alone has contributed about 45 per cent of all gold dug — outside Russia — in this century.)

The Soviet is working about 70 large gold fields in northeast Siberia. These are harnessed under a single Kremlin project called Dalstory — which, in Russian, means "far north project." The administrative headquarters is at Magadan.

Swiss experts on world gold (there are no better) believe these mines are now running 24 hours a day. While prohibitive costs cripple U. S. mines and our gold reserve goes down and out, the Swiss estimate that the USSR may be producing at nearly the South African rate.

CPYRGHT

By Henry J. Taylor

The Zurich market is a magnet because a larger variety of currencies is available in Switzerland than anywhere in the world.

Moscow, of course, reports some sales publicly — purporting to give the full picture. But its published statistics are part of the deception.

The Soviet, thru state co-operatives, owns two large and surprisingly well-managed banks in Western Europe, the Moscow Narodny Bank, Ltd., in London and the Banque Commerciale de L'Europe in Paris. These manipulate gold-sale orders into Zurich via a maze of correspondent banks as far away as Hong Kong, Montevideo, etc. The deceiving network spreading from London and Paris is run from an old Czarist palace on Lubyanka Square in Moscow.

Russia, a major producer, likewise sells large amounts of platinum. In fact, the Kremlin once threw so much platinum onto the Zurich exchange that it actually broke the market. Then the Kremlin turned around and bought it cheap thru its Banque Commerciale in Paris.

Large parts of the gold-platinum proceeds converted into the world's currencies are delivered to the Italian Communist Party, of which Dr. Beltramini is a member.

This Rome outpost has an immense foreign department with an undercover pay station in the Via Andrea Doria that services Red carriers, native and otherwise.

For Latin American delivery, control of the carrier then passes to Moscow's GUSA Bureau (Glavnoye Ultravlenye Iuzhnoi Ameriki — Central Administration for South America).

Intermediaries enter again — such as Castro. The currency is carried to his General Directorate of Intelligence (DGI) in Havana. This is Castro's subversive arm. A payment of \$250,000 traced to Guatemalan agitators, \$80,000 to El Salvador and Panama groups, etc., is confirmed by our own CIA.

Eels within eels is the real story. And the more our public knows about all Chinese-Soviet deceptions the better.